

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/667,010

Applicant(s)

HANSMANN ET AL.

Examiner

ARAVIND K. MOORTHY

Art Unit

2431

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 16 December 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/25/09
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/Ayaz R. Sheikh/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2431

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the communications filed on 16 December 2008.
2. Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.
3. Claims 1-15 have been allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-15 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The current application is directed towards setting basic means of access for operation of electronically operated devices, with the aid of a possibly transferable personal authentication system. The invention is essentially based on three components; namely additional device hardware functions permitting means of access, namely in particular for custom configuration and shutdown of the devices; a hardware-oriented interface to a reader device, for the authentication system such as a SmartCard reader permitting access to the said functions by a SmartCard; and the authentication system itself, capable of directly accessing the configuration and/or shutdown/startup/restart functions of the device hardware by way of the defined interface. Legitimization for configuration/shutdown and startup/restart of the devices is provided by matching of keys stored on the SmartCard and in a ROM in the device.

The closest prior art to the current application is Clark U.S. Patent No. 5,892,902. Clark is directed towards an intelligent token protected system includes a local host computer, an intelligent token in communication with the local host computer and a remote host computer in communication with the local host computer. The intelligent token interacts with the local host computer to perform a secure boot on the local host computer with minimal user input. Without

additional user input, the intelligent token also interacts with the remote host computer to authenticate the local host computer to the remote host computer.

However, there are differences between the current application and the Clark reference. Clark does not disclose the variety of devices that are claimed. There is no deactivation step disclosed by Clark. The current application deactivates the system to authorization patterns prior to operation. Clark is setting up a connection between computers, but is using a different security system to do so. In the current application, a key may be present on the device and the same key on the smart card, so a challenge/response can be used to authenticate the smart card. In the Clark reference, there is only a single level of access. The current application deals with different levels of access to differentiate the different levels of authentication or authorization that persons with different roles may need. Clark does not disclose "no access or full access and allow more finely defined levels of access".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARAVIND K. MOORTHY whose telephone number is (571)272-3793. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aravind K Moorthy/
Examiner, Art Unit 2431
/Ayaz R. Sheikh/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2431